

**Trantum, Shara-Li (ECY)**

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**From:** Machelie Rzepka [machelie@helloworld.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 12, 2007 7:12 PM  
**To:** dkn461@ecy.wa.gov; Trantum, Shara-Li (ECY)  
**Subject:** Lake Spokane

Dear Mr. Knight:

I am writing to urge the Department of Ecology to adopt a Water Quality Improvement Plan to clean up Lake Spokane to meet Federal water quality standards, decrease wastewater discharge permits and increase the amount of processing wastewater must go through before being released. The Spokane River is number 6 on the America's most endangered waterways list. If that isn't reason alone to enact a plan of clean up I don't know what the Department of Ecology needs to have. The water that fills Lake Spokane is from the Spokane River, which astoundingly, has five wastewater treatment plants located beside it. Because of all those treatment plants, Lake Spokane has trouble keeping the fish and other wildlife pollutant free. Both residents as well as experts agree that we must solve this problem. In 4/4/04, an article was written by John Osborn, MD: "Yes, We Need a Regional Water Quality Authority: Lessons for the Spokane River from Lake Washington". He states: "here's the problem: 400,000 people flush sewage effluent into the Spokane River. The river receives more "nutrients", ammonia and phosphorous than it can handle. Oxygen in the water needed by fish to breathe is depleted. Low concentrations of dissolved oxygen harm or kill fish, and risk algae blooms, from the state line to Lake Spokane (Long Lake). Here's another quote from The Pacific Northwest Inlander Online, "Flushing out Facts" by Joel Smith on 7/19/05: "over 400,000 people and businesses use the Spokane River as a dumpsite that is equal to "55 million gallons of... — tap water, crap water, industrial waste — that major dischargers pump into the Spokane River every day. To reach that same number yourself, try flushing your toilet about 16 million times in a row and you'll get the picture."

Lake Spokane is a dumpsite! Lake Spokane is an example of a huge failure to meet U. S. water quality standards. Earlier this year, there was a fire near the T.J. Meenach Bridge where hundreds of gallons of oil went streaming down the storm water drains. No one in the city could specifically say how much of that polluted oil/water reached the lake. As a homeowner on the lake with a boat in the water during that time frame, my boat had a remarkable amount of oil residue on the hull. I for one can say A LOT of oil reached and affected the lake. Another example of the amount of pollution in the lake happens every year around Labor Day. The Lake "blooms". In effect, the Lake turns green and smells very strongly like polluted water. I urge the Department of Ecology to not allow additional sewage plants or sewage discharges into the Spokane River until the current problems have been fixed. Include all sources of pollution into the plan: storm water, Avista's Long Lake dam, Washington's and Idaho's sewage plants. Impose a meaningful timeline, no more the 10 years to meet Lake Spokane's water quality standards!

So, again, I am AGAINST any increase in permits for wastewater discharge. These permits should be decreased and the wastewater treated to even higher standards. I absolutely want to see an entire water quality improvement plan that will work.

11/13/2007

Our neighbor wrote this, to add a further note we swim in this water, animals drink from this water, eagles eat the fish from this water. We love our lake please help us keep it clean by thinking of us who have this as our front and back yard.

Machelle and Rick Rzepka

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